

# John the Baptist's relationship to the kingdom

## Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35

- A reminder that for weeks or even months John the Baptist had been imprisoned by Herod.
- John seemed to have the idea that the Messiah would immediately bring judgment. This is a caution to all of us when we take what God has clearly spoken to us and then to begin to add our expectations.
- When God does not act according to our expectations we can begin to doubt what God has clearly revealed. This is what happened to John.
- Jesus' admonition to John was to accept Jesus for who He is not who we want or expect Him to be.

# John the Baptist's relationship to the kingdom

## Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35

- Jesus responded by taking John back to God's clear revelation of the work of the Messiah as He demonstrated this work in the presence of the disciples John sent to Him. (See Luke 4:18-19 and Isaiah 61:1-2a)
- Jesus reminded the people there that John the Baptist was the fulfillment of scripture that a forerunner of the Messiah would come to prepare the way.
- Jesus paid the highest tribute to John but acknowledged that John would not live to see the fulfillment that Jesus would bring. John would die before the perfect sacrifice has been made and all of the privilege of the kingdom of God given to every believer.

# John the Baptist's relationship to the kingdom

## Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35

- John came and did the work God had for him in spite of the rejection and objection of the religious leaders. It seems that John's austere lifestyle was a point of ridicule by those in power.
- The same people would find fault with Jesus as He engaged people and even associated with sinners.

# Woes upon Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum for failure to repent Matthew 11:20-30

- Up to this point this was the area where Jesus concentrated His ministry.
- Proud, pagan nations would have repented if they had witnessed the works of Jesus and heard His teaching.
- Another strong caution to closing our heart to God's work around us.



# Christ's feet anointed by a sinful but contrite woman Luke 7:36-50

- Simon, the Pharisee, was at least curious enough about the works and teaching of Jesus to entertain the possibility that Jesus may be a prophet.
- His treatment of Jesus in his home showed a reserved distance.

# Christ's feet anointed by a sinful but contrite woman Luke 7:36-50

- The woman, described as a “sinner”, would have lived a life of immorality.
- It was not unusual for people to show up as she did at the house when a special guest was there.
- She came with gift for Jesus. She had obviously heard Jesus as He had taught and seen the works He and done.
- More importantly she had observed how Jesus treated the people who came to Him. This was remarkably different than the treatment from people like Simon.

# Christ's feet anointed by a sinful but contrite woman Luke 7:36-50

- As she stood behind Jesus, contemplating how to present the gift, she was overcome with godly sorrow for her sin and began to weep.
- Her tears falling on the feet of Jesus revealed that His feet had not been washed and with what she had, her tears and her hair, she washed the feet of Jesus and then used the precious oil to anoint His feet.
- Since Jesus showed no horror or embarrassment at the action of this woman, Simon concluded that He had been mistaken in even thinking that Jesus was a prophet.

# Christ's feet anointed by a sinful but contrite woman Luke 7:36-50

- Jesus revealed that instead of being oblivious to what was happening, He knew the real story on every level.
  - He knew exactly what Simon was thinking.
  - He knew exactly what Simon thought of Him all along.
  - He revealed the danger of thinking that to any degree our righteousness contributes to our salvation.
  - He used the event to reveal the grace and forgiveness of God toward those who respond in repentance.
  - He again reveals His authority to forgive sin.

A summary of Jesus' ministry throughout the region with His followers.

Luke 8:1-3

- Jesus was faithful to His mission of calling people to repentant entrance to the Kingdom of God.
- Accompanied by the Twelve.
- Accompanied by a group of women who had been personally touched by the ministry of Jesus.
  - Mary Magdalene who Jesus delivered from demonization. (The widely held belief that Mary was a former prostitute has no biblical basis but came from a proclamation by Roman Catholic Pope Gregory the Great in 591 that the woman in Luke 7: 36-50; Mary of Bethany, John 12:1-7 and Mary Magdalene were the same woman. Corrected at the Second Vatican Council in 1969)

A summary of Jesus' ministry throughout the region with His followers.

Luke 8:1-3

- Accompanied by a group of women who had been personally touched by the ministry of Jesus.
  - We know little or nothing more about the other women named here. Joanna is mentioned as one of the women who was with Mary Magdalene when they went to the tomb and discovered that Jesus had risen from the dead.
  - These were evidently women of means and used those resources to help provide for the needs of Jesus and His disciples.